

ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

*

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

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Councillors

Chairman	Councillor J. Holley, J.P.
Vice-Chairman ...	Councillor A. E. Strongman
Councillor D. T. Bigham	Councillor D. Belcher
,, G. Yearsley	,, W. Cross
,, Mrs. M. A. Matthews	,, T. J. Jenkins
,, D. C. Evans	,, S. Holloway
,, F. Edwards	,, G. Moses
,, R. Morris	,, H. Reed
,, L. James	,, T. M. Edwards
,, T. Dart	,, A. Jones

Officers

Clerk and Accountant	Leon King
Medical Officer of Health	J. Dunlop
Sanitary Inspector	I. Jenkins
Engineer and Surveyor	Malcolm T. Benjamin
Architect	H. A. Rees
Valuation Officer	C. Knight
Gas Engineer	T. Wilkinson

Council Offices,

Abercarn, Mon.

September, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Abercarn Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen;

I have the honour of submitting my Annual Report upon the vital statistics and sanitary administration of your area for the year 1948.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the Abercarn Urban District	9,543	acres.
Population—Registrar General's Estimate	18,390	
Inhabited Houses	1946	4,545
	1947	4,747
	1948	4,957
Number of Houses owned by Council		589.
Requisitioned Premises		10
Rateable Value	1946	£66,383
	1947	£64,813
	1948	£66,248
Product of Penny Rate	1946	£239 6 10
	1947	£239 13 11
	1948	£241 19 10

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births :—	1946	1947	1948
Legitimate	354	393	361
Illegitimate	15	9	6
Total	369	402	367
Males	198	196	188
Females	171	207	179
Total	369	403	367
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population			20

Stillbirths :—	1946	1947	1948
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of the Population	0.68	0.73	0.87

DEATHS

	1946	1947	1948
Males	122	139	111
Females	102	78	79
	—	—	—
Total	224	217	190
	—	—	—

	1946	1947	1948
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population	11.7	11.4	10.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 Monmouthshire	19.2		
Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales		17.9	
Death Rate per 1,000 Monmouthshire			11.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Number of Deaths under one year :—

	1946	1947	1948
Boys	8	13	5
Girls	8	7	9
	—	—	—
Total	16	20	14
	—	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate 38.1

Causes of Infant deaths at various ages :—

	weeks					months					Total
	1	2	3	4	Total.	3	6	9	12		
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiac Failure	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchial Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Gastro Enteritis	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Toxaemia	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tubercular Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Totals	2	1	—	3	6	5	3	—	1	9	—

ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES—DEATHS

	1946	1947	1948
Bronchitis	16	27	15
Pneumonia	18	19	10
Other forms	3	4	7
Total	37	50	32

CANCER DEATHS

	1946	1947	1948
Males	19	17	12
Females	6	11	9
Total	25	28	21

Infectious Disease.

The principal Notifiable Diseases are Small Pox, Typhoid, Typhus, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Continued Fever.

There was one death from a Notifiable Disease during the year, i.e., Whooping Cough.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948

		1947			1948
M.	F.		M.	F.	
133	75	ALL CAUSES	111	79	
—	4	Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	14	2	
1	—	Tuberculosis—Other Forms	2	—	
7	1	Influenza	1	—	
2	3	Cancer of B. Cav-Oesoph. (M) ; Uterus (F) ..	—	1	
5	1	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	1	
—	—	Cancer—Breast	—	1	
10	7	Cancer—Other Sites	8	6	
1	2	Diabetes	—	—	
11	8	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	11	10	
25	12	Heart Diseases	23	13	
1	1	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...	2	1	
21	6	Bronchitis	10	5	
12	7	Pneumonia	4	6	
3	1	Other Respiratory Diseases	6	1	
3	—	Ulcers—Stomach and Duodenum	2	—	
2	1	Diarrhoea (under two years)	—	2	
1	1	Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	
4	—	Nephritis	4	3	
4	2	Premature Birth	2	—	
2	3	Con. Mal. Birth Injuries—Infant Diseases ...	—	1	
3	1	Suicides	2	—	
1	—	Road Traffic Accidents	1	—	
1	1	Measles	—	—	
4	—	Other Violent Causes	2	3	
		Cerebral Spinal Fever	—	2	
		Whooping Cough	—	1	
9	13	All Other Causes	11	15	

CORONER'S INQUESTS

Four Inquests were held during 1948 ; the certified causes of death were :—

Suicide	2
Heart Failure	1
Accidents in the Home (Asphyxia) ..	1

**ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
IN AGE GROUPS**

Diseases	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	—	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	11
Pneumonia	—	1	2	—	2	2	3	—	1	1	2	14
Measles	5	3	8	7	9	16	—	—	—	—	—	48
Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	3	4	3	6	5	5	32
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Whooping Cough ..	21	18	16	20	7	27	1	—	—	—	—	110
Chicken Pox	2	6	3	3	7	11	—	1	—	—	—	33
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals ...	30	30	30	30	27	65	9	4	7	6	9	5 252

**NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS**

	1945	1946	1947	1948
Scarlet Fever	17	25	15	11
Diphtheria	9	3	—	—
Pneumonia	35	23	22	14
Meningitis	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—
Measles	214	16	287	48
Tuberculosis	32	34	40	32
Erysipelas	1	2	2	2
Whooping Cough	—	11	13	110
Chicken Pox	—	72	7	33
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	2
Totals	308	186	386	252

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The number of children who have completed a full course of Immunisation during the Year :—

Age at 31/12/48	0	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Estimated Population Mid Year 1948	—	51	50	4	2	6	—	100
	Children under 5	Children 5-14					Total	
	1542	2670					4212	

There were no cases of Diphtheria reported during the past year.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality in 1948

Age	Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
15	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
20	—	—	3	—	—	3	2	—	—
25	—	—	6	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	1	4	—	—	2	—	—	—
45	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	—	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...		13	16	2	1	11	2	2	0

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES

	Pulmonary	Non		Total	
		M	F		
Total Cases on Register, 31/12/47 ...	71	50	16	26	163
New Cases, 1948	13	16	2	1	32
Deaths	11	2	2	—	15
Recovered	2	—	—	3	5
Removed from District	2	—	—	—	2
Total Cases on Register, 31/12/48 ...	69	64	16	24	173

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

Medical Officer of Health : J. Dunlop, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.)

Sanitary Inspectors :

I. H. Jenkins, A.R.S.I. (1/1/48—21/12/48)

C. A. Lewis, A.R.S.I. (22/12/48—31/12/48)

Maternity and Child Welfare Services are maintained by the County Council at Abercarn, Newbridge and Crumlin. The Local Nursing Association maintains two District Nurses.

Isolation Hospitals.

There are no Isolation Hospitals in the Council's area but arrangements have been made for Infectious Diseases to be admitted to the Bedwellty Isolation Hospital, Aberbargoed.

No cases from this area were admitted to the Isolation Hospital during 1948.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

As from the 1st July, 1948, it is now the duty of the County Council to administer this service.

There are two Public Vaccinators in the District.

Ambulance Service.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, it became the duty of the County Council to administer the Ambulance Service.

Bacteriological Examination of Pathological Specimens.

Samples of Milk and Water are submitted to the Laboratory at the County Hall for examination.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Ebbw and the Monmouthshire Canal run through the Council's District. Subsidence is causing serious difficulties between Abercarn and Crumlin. The river and canal are being used by many people as a depository for all kinds of refuse and dead animals. Efforts are being made to discover the persons responsible, the nuisance is removed by the Canal Section of the British Railways Executive as soon as possible after it has been discovered.

Water Supplies.

The Council is a constituent Authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board. The chief supply is obtained from the Grwyne-fawr Reservoir situated in the Breconshire Mountains. Subsidiary supplies are obtained from local sources ; the water is of good quality and except for periods of drought the supply is adequate.

The water is sampled by the Board and Bacteriological Examinations are made. When found necessary, the supplies are chlorinated by the Board's officials.

The number of houses with a piped water supply 4,649

The number of houses supplied from wells and springs 114

Sewers and Drains.

The Council are constituent members of the Western Valleys Sewerage Board. The Council's subsidiary Sewers are connected to the Main Trunk Sewer. There are approximately 120 houses not connected to the Sewer, these are chiefly isolated houses on the mountain tops which are too far from any of the present Sewers to be connected.

Schemes for the sewerage of 54 houses at the Graig, Cwmearn, Twyn College, Pennar, The Pant and Pentrepiod have been prepared and it is hoped that these will be completed in 1949.

Scavenging.

Scavenging is now carried out by direct labour. The Council has three modern vehicles and the larger part of the District is covered three times weekly.

Refuse Disposal.

The Pantyresk site which became available in 1948 will serve as a tipping site for several years. Controlled tipping is carried out on the new site.

Rainfall.

Rainfall is recorded at Abercarn Cemetery.
Height above sea level 539.9 feet

The table shows the monthly rainfall, also the day of the month when the greatest fall occurred.

Month	Rainfall	Greatest fall in 24 hours in ins.	Date	No. of days with less than 0.1 ins.
January	13.04	1.64	6th	6
February	2.68	.60	5th	20
March	3.02	1.50	31st	25
April	3.44	.48	22nd	19
May	5.10	1.50	25th	25
June	4.92	1.31	6th	20
July	2.11	.63	17th	26
August	7.95	1.94	2nd	16
September	5.52	1.70	2nd	22
October	7.38	1.82	15th	18
November	2.38	.83	3rd	23
December	8.73	1.34	31st	17
Total	64.37	1.82	15/10/48	237

HOUSING CONDITIONS

The Housing circumstances continue to be affected by the acute shortage of houses. Overcrowding occurs chiefly because of sub-letting to two or three families. In only very few instances are cases of overcrowding of single families in one house.

The Council have erected 242 houses since the end of the war : 50 B.I.S.F. Steel Houses, 50 Arcon Bungalows, 30 Brick Traditional Houses, 100 Aluminium Bungalows (Miners), and 12 Airey Houses. Preparations are almost completed for the erection of another 90 at Persondy and a scheme for another 98 at High Meadow is proposed.

The Council are seeking sites in several parts of the District for the building of more houses and it is hoped that the time will soon arrive when the bulk of the people will have a house for each family.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Housing.

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected	103
Re-inspected	50
Warning Notices served	103
Remedied without Notice	3
Statutory Notices served	27
Statutory Notices complied with	27
Statutory Notices not complied with	—
Number of Houses in Area	4957
Number of Houses owned by Council	589
Number of New Houses erected privately during 1948	2
Drains reported stoppage and cleared by Owner	25
Drains reported stoppage and cleared by Council	17
Number of Dwelling-houses erected during the year by the Council : (86 Aluminium, 50 B.I.S.F., 22 Traditional, 12 Aireys)	170

The following statement is in the form prescribed by the Ministry :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)
- 103
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose
- 153
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925 and 1932
-
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose
-
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation
- 2
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in respects reasonably fit for habitation
-

2.	Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices	—
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	—
Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—		
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :— a. By Owners	—
	b. By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
	Number of Houses under Circular 2845	16
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	27
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :— a. By Owners	—
	b. By Local Authority in default of owners ...	27
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4.	Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding :—	
(a)	i Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	200
	ii Number of families dwelling therein	400
	iii Number of persons dwelling therein	1600
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
(c)	i Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	50
	ii Number of persons concerned in such cases	150
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of the overcrowding	—

Housing Conditions.

The housing position during the year was in a very serious state of overcrowding. It has become so prevalent in the District that it is impossible to keep any check on it.

INSPECTION OF MILK AND OTHER FOODS

Milk Supply.

Number of Cowsheds on Register	44
Number of Milk Producers on Register ...	70
Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk	36

Cowsheds are inspected periodically for fitness and cleanliness ; most of the cowsheds have been made reasonably fit although in the case of very old buildings it has been difficult owing to lack of suitable materials. The great fault in many of the Hill Farms is the lack of an adequate water supply, and in these cases water has to be carried from the lower houses in churns.

Regular sampling is carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, and the Sanitary Inspector takes periodical samples for Bacteriological examination. The Food and Drugs Inspector of the County takes samples for testing the fat content and purity of the milk.

Ice Cream.

New Regulations came into force controlling the manufacture of Ice Cream and persons who manufacture the article must provide hygienic premises, proper sterilisation and cooling equipment for the hot mix process before they can be registered. Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining equipment.

All makers of Ice Cream are now compulsorily registered by the Local Authority and they must specify in their application whether they manufacture Hot or Cold Mix.

Fish Fryers.

These shops are visited regularly and the cleanliness and preparation of the food is carefully watched. There is a general improvement in the new type of Range which absorbs the offensive smell associated with this trade.

Meat.

Both fresh killed and chilled meat is distributed from the Brynmawr Slaughterhouse where it is inspected before distribution. An inspection is made in the shops after it arrives. In only a few cases has it been necessary to condemn any meat, and then due only to decomposition having set in. The provision of refrigerators in Butchers' shops has made a great improvement in the condition of the meat and the hygiene of the shops.

Other Foods.

A large quantity of tinned and other foods have been inspected and in the case of meat, bacon, butter and condensed milk, the goods are sent to the various Pools for salvage or reconditioning. The following articles were condemned as being unfit for human consumption during the year :—

6 packets Dried Egg	2 tins Crawfish
5 dozen Eggs	5 lbs. Jam
32 tins Minced Beef Loaf	7 tins Dutch Brawn
101 lbs. Bacon	4 tins Carrots
32 lbs. Faggots	40 tins Pilchards
14 tin Tomatoes	28 tins Condensed Milk
119 tins Evaporated Milk	7 tins Luncheon Meat
2 lbs. Flour	18 lbs. Ham
93 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Butter	1 tin Mutton Hash
3 tins Syrup	9 lbs. Cheese
2 tins Corned Beef	33 lbs. Beef
3 tins Veal Loaf	8 tins Grapefruit Juice
60 tins Peas	10 tins Marmalade
7 tins Grapes	1 tin Apricots
12 tins Grapefruit	3 tins Pineapple
68 packets " Master Mix "	1 tin Pineapple
8 tins Macaroni	8 tins Salmon
7 lbs. Steak	21 pkts. Coconut Flavouring
3 tins Pears	22 pkts. Table Dessert
15 tins Tomato Juice	1 tin Peaches
18 tins Beans	5 tins Orange Juice

2 tins Beetroot	36 packets Chocolate Cup
1 tin Irish Stew	5 tins Pineapple Juice
2 tins Rhubarb	2 tins Tomato Soup
2 tins Baked Beans	1 tin Bacon
1 tin Plums	28 packets Moulds
50 lbs. Figs	36 Yorkshire Puddings
4 jars Picallili	3 tins Oranges
20 tins Meat	3 tins Fish Roll

Bakehouses.

These premises are inspected regularly for cleanliness and the observation of the Regulations by the Occupiers.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

A Council employee who has received a course on Rats and Mice Destruction is employed as a part-time operative on this work.

The Sewers, Canal and River Banks, Refuse Tips and all Council property are attended to. It has been found that systematic sewer baiting has had a marked effect upon the number of surface infestations.

Factories and Workshops.

Number of Factories	9
Number of Workshops	21

Number of Defects

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	No. of
			to H.M.	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors .	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	2	2	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—

Factories Act.

H.M. Inspector complained that owing to a structural defect Messrs. Critchley's Factory at North Road, Newbridge, had not the separate accommodation for the sexes. As this was a Board of Trade factory, representation was made to the Board with regard to this.

Shops Act.

All shops are still closing at the times agreed upon during the War. The Regulations regarding employment of young persons are complied with.

Cinemas.

There are four Cinemas in the Area. The Sanitary arrangements in these premises are inspected and they are kept clean and in a sanitary condition. Regular spraying is done prior to and between performances.

F. S. A. FORBES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

CYRIL A LEWIS, A.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.



Clifford, Printer, Newbridge